

A NEW SPECIES OF PRAYING MANTIS FROM INDIA

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ABSTRACT

A new species of *Amantis* is described from Kozhikode, Kerala, India. Characteristic differences between the other species is provided.

KEYWORDS

Amantis malabarensis sp. nov., Kerala, Mantodea, new species

ABBREVIATIONS

DZCU - Department of Zoology, Calicut University

The genus *Amantis* was erected by Giglio-Tos in 1915 with type species *Amantis reticulata*. Five species of *Amantis* are already known from India, viz., *Amantis biroi* Giglio-Tos, *A. saussurei* (Boliver), *A. subirina* Giglio-Tos, *A. bolivarii* Giglio-Tos, *A. indica* Giglio-Tos. A new species, *Amantis malabarensis* sp. nov., is described in this paper from Kozhikode, Kerala.

The specimens were collected by hand. The observations were made using M₃Z Wild Stereozoom (Switzerland) microscope and the figures were drawn using the drawing tube of M₃Z Wild Stereozoom (Switzerland) microscope

***Amantis malabarensis* sp. nov.**

(Figs.1-7)

Materials examined

Holotype: Male, 21-v-2000, Kovoov (Kozhikode), Kerala, India, coll. Vyjayandi, DZCU.

Paratypes: 1 male, 18-ii-2000, Malaparamba (Kozhikode), Kerala, coll. Vyjayandi, DZCU; 1 male, 21-iii-99, Malaparamba (Kozhikode), Kerala, coll. Grace, DZCU; 1 male, 5-x-2001, Calicut University campus, Kerala, coll. Vyjayandi, DZCU.

Male: Body length 14mm.

Colour: Black with orange tinge. Head central area of vertex black, either side clay brown with fuscous tinge; eyes brown to glossy fuscous; ocelli, frontal sclerite, forecoxa, forefemur and clypeus orange brown. Pronotum dorsally black. Forefemoral spines black at apex only; tibia, metatarsus black; other tarsal segments testaceous; middle and hind coxa black; femur, tibia, metatarsus and other tarsal segments testaceous. Wings testaceous to black, semi hyaline, with smokey stiff hairs. Metasoma black.

Head: Broadly triangular, 1.6x wider than high; vertex with five insignificant lobes; eyes globular; ocelli large, conspicuous; frontal sclerite pentagonal, almost as wide as high, angular superiorly, slightly arched inferiorly, disc flat; clypeus projecting;

antenna thick, with rosettes of sharp bristles at the junction of two segments.

Pronotum: A little shorter than forecoxa, rhomboidal, supra coxal dialation pronounced; metazona constricted at middle, disc smooth with insignificant carina; 1.4x longer than broad at supra coxal dialation; metazona 1.2x longer than prozona, margin setaceous; forelegs simple, not foliaceous; coxa with mid dorsal carina; margin with hairs; femur 1.3x longer than coxa, 1.9x longer than tibia with four external, four discoidal and 12 internal (6 long and 6 short) spines; disc between rows of external and internal spines denticulated; tibia 1.4x longer than metatarsus with 11 external and 11 internal spines; metatarsus slightly longer than all other tarsal segments together; middle and hind legs: middle leg shorter than the hind leg; femur as equal as tibia; tibia more setaceous than femur; hind metatarsus a little longer than the other tarsal segments together; wings semihyaline, setaceous; fore wings costal area opaque, costal vein setaceous, anterior and posterior radial veins not bifurcating, discoidal vein bifurcate distally; hind wings anterior vein bifurcates and posterior radial vein trifurcates.

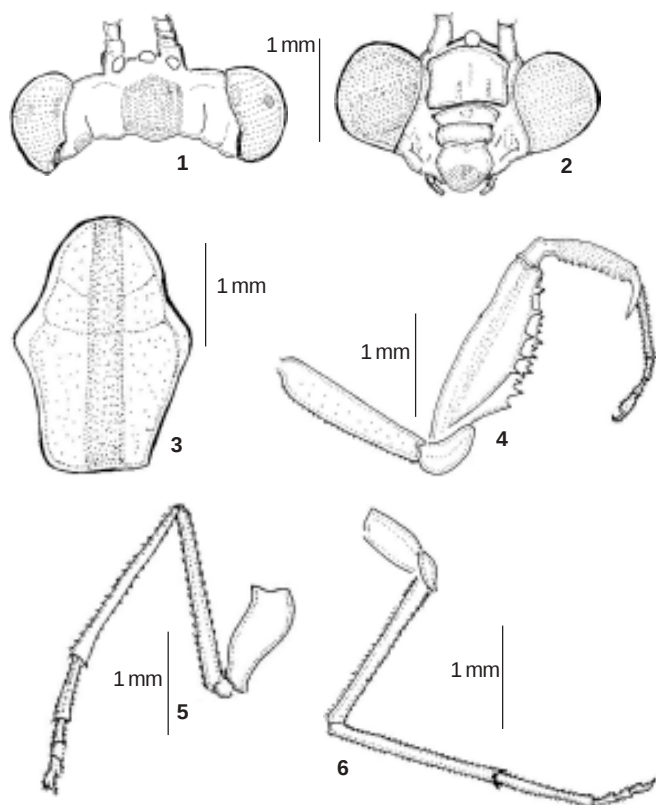
Metasoma: Shorter than wings, stout, fusiform; supra anal plate short; posterior part subconical; cerci short, segmented, posterior part with pubescence.

Discussion

This species *Amantis malabarensis* sp. nov. is closely related to *Amantis biroi* Giglio-Tos in the following characters: pronotum, forewing and veins black. *Amantis malabarensis* sp. nov. differs from it in the following characters: (1) frontal sclerite without black spot (frontal sclerite with black spot *A. biroi*); and (2) pronotum with continuous black stripe (pronotum with discontinuous black stripe in *A. biroi*).

The new species resembles *A. bolivarii* Giglio-Tos in the following characters: (1) frontal sclerite without any black stripe; (2) pronotum with median black stripe; and (3) wings subhyaline. It differs from *A. bolivarii* Giglio-Tos in following features: (1) forecoxa internally without black spot (forecoxa internally with black spot in *A. bolivarii*); and (2) forefemur without any black dots internally (forefemur internally with 2-3 dots in *A. bolivarii*).

Amantis malabarensis sp. nov. is similar to *Amantis indica* Giglio-Tos in the following characters: (1) frontal sclerite without any black patch; (2) pronotum with a black stripe; and (3) foremetatarsus black, other tarsal segments brown. This species differs from *A. indica* in the following character: (1) forefemur not black, without any indistinct black bands (forefemur black,



Figures 1-6. *Amantis malabarensis* sp. nov.
1 - Head (dorsal view); 2 - Head (ventral view);
3 - Pronotum; 4 - Fore leg; 5 - Mid leg; 6 - Hind leg

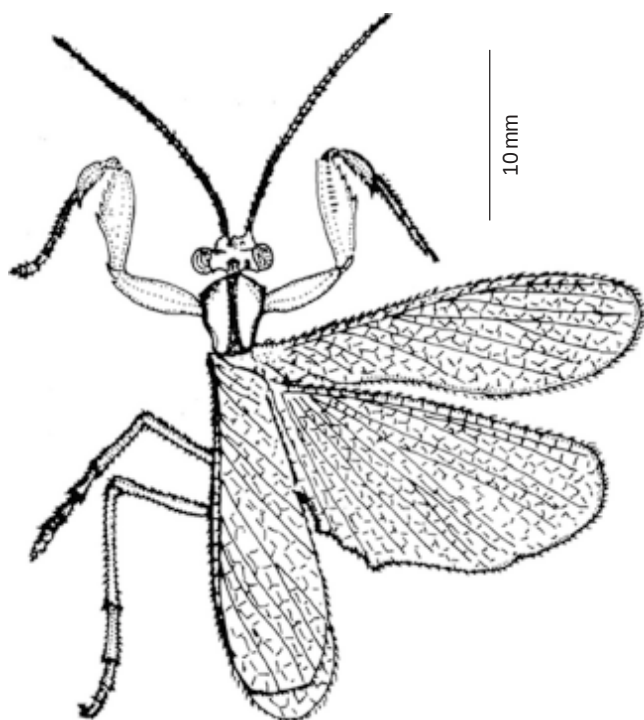


Figure 7. *Amantis malabarensis* sp. nov. (entire)

with 3 indistinct bands in *A. indica*).

Amantis malabarensis sp. nov. resembles *Amantis saussurei* Bolivar in the following characters: (1) vertex dorsally blackish; and (2) pronotum with a dark median line. *Amantis malabarensis* sp. nov. differs from *Amantis saussurei* Bolivar in the following characters: (1) frontal sclerite without black dots (Frontal sclerite with two black spots on either side in *A. saussurei* Bolivar); and (2) first fore tarsal segment black (First tarsal segment brown in *A. saussurei*).

Amantis malabarensis sp. nov. is similar to *Amantis subirina* Giglio-Tos in the following characters: (1) frontal sclerite without any black spot; (2) pronotum with median black stripe; and (3) forecoxa brown. *Amantis malabarensis* sp. nov. differs from *Amantis subirina* in the following characters: (1) vertex with median black stripe (without any black stripe in *A. subirina*); (2) forelegs femur brown (forefemur black with three indistinct bands in *A. subirina*); and (3) second tarsal segment not black (second tarsal segment black in *A. subirina*).

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